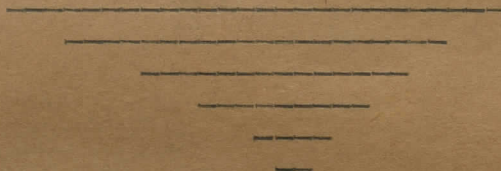


" THE BALLOON GIRL "



*
* PROPERTY OF JOHNNIE SPEER *
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THE BALLOON GIRL

CAST OF CHARACTERS (as they appear)

PHILLIP GREY.....	HEAVY
SLIM HARRISON.....	CHARACTER HEAVY
REVEREND GREY.....	PREACHER LEAD
MRS CHAPMAN.....	CHARACTER
PATIENCE CHAPMAN.....	SOUBRETTE
CONSTABLE CLANTON.....	CHARACTER COMEDY
TOBY GREEN.....	COMEDY
SYLVIA	DOUBLE
MAZIE	THE BALLOON GIRL LEAD

ACT I INTERIOR LIVING ROOM OF REVREND GREY'S HOME? WINDOW
BACK L C D LIBRARY TABLE CHAIRS DESK SETTEE HALL TREE ETC.

PROPS HORN BALLOON ON STRING COIN? WRITING MATERIAL? P
Pen etc. Bbg piece of canvass and rope to represent parachute
ladder, picture of rock of ages, bathrobe safety pins. Large
gun, cane and hat.

ACT TWO*** SAME AS ACT I ABOUT DUSK
PROPS OFF STAGE MUSIC ALSO IN ACT I DOOR BELL WARRANT

ACT THREE SAME AS ACT TWO ABOUT HALF HOUR LATER
PROPS BUNDLE OF CLOTHES .. REVOLVER FOR MAZIE*. OLD WORN
OUT PAPER TRAIN BELL BIBLE.

_____		C D	_____
HALL TREE			ENT
		DESK C	
_____			_____
ENT			
			ENT
_____			_____
ENT	C TABLE C	SETTEE	

OPENING

AT RISE: Phillip Grey discovered ---enters L U arch tiptoes down to L Open door of ministers room, peeps in closes door again quietly then X to window R U, removes handkerchief from pocket and draws it across face as though wiping perspiration then gives a quick wave through window with handkerchief.

Slim

(appears at window steps into room) Have you got it?

Phil

I have, but before I give it to you are you certain that everything will turn out all right.

Slim

Couldn't go wrong sonny, all we need is the combination from you and a clear road

Phil

Theroad will be clear---this is Saturday afternoon---there is never any one at the bank on Saturdays.

Slim

Well, sonny just as soon as the parade begins we'll get the work started. Every rube in this town will be watching the elephants and thats when we get busy

Phil

And about my share---these will be no slip about that?

Slim

No chance, but it won't do for you to be seen with any of us. We'll be suspected anyway and after we pull the job off I'll send Mazie around to meet you here about dark. She 'll have your end of the coin.

Phil

You're right (takes slip of paper from pocket) Here it is take and go (hand paper to Slim)

Slim

(places paper in pocket) Righto (start to window)

Phil

(follows him to window) What time.

Slim

(going out window) When the parade starts (exit out window)

Rev

(enter L arch as he enters sound of band call is heard in distance) Phil, Mrs Chapman phoned that she would be here.

Phil

(turns from window looks at him then turns back) No---going to the circus-Prescher.

Rev

(surprised) Phil.

Phil

Bein a minister is a rotten job.

Rev

Phil, I wish you would say such things (horn again*)

Phil

They're calling their band together---its about time for the parade--you take that in, don't you?

Rev

Certainly' not!

Phil

(looking out window) Well take it from me, brother mine, if this aggregation has many like that one, I wouldn't miss it for a farm.

Rev

Like which one?

Phil

(points) Over there---that poster on Cramers old barn--that little blonde in the center can put her clothes in my trunk

Rev

Phillip!

Phil

Excuse me I meant her tights---she hasn't any real clothes on.

Mrs Chap

(enter arch followed by constable and Patience) The door was open so we came right in Reverend Cary (Pat L) Constable sits L)

Toby

(enter carries ball on string) I'm here too parson

~~Phil~~ Con

He sees you, he sees you---keep quiet you're a pest a human pest.

Toby

Aw you jest say that cause I make you give me a nickel when you come courtin my maw and want me to getout

Rev

Isn't it a wonderful summer day, Constable Clanton?

Con

Howde do parson

Phil

This outhg to be your busy day, Constable.

Con

How so, how so, Phillip?

Phil

A circuse usually brings many suspicious characters into a twon sometimes they commit theft using the circus as a shield, you shoul be watching them.

Con

I've got my eye on them, I got my eye on them

i

Tob

Yep he's got h s eye on them all right I seen him down on the circus lot this morning and he was---

Mrs Chap

Why the very idea ^

Con

Toby, you shet your dern mouth . Thata boy is trying to ruin my reputation

Tob

You aing got none to ruin---yessir parson I saw him and he was---

Con

Here, here's a nickel now run along

Toby

Nope, what I know about you is worth a quarter.

Con

A quarter!qI won't pay it, thats black mail and blakmail is agin the law

Toby

All right, I don't want your money no how, you see folks he was a looking---

Con

Here, drat you there's your quarter (hands Toby coin) Now you run along out a here.

Toby

Gosh, you're generous. I can buy a ticket to the show with that.

Mrs Chap

Toby Green, thats bribery, you know where you'll go for that?

Tob

Well, right now I'm going to the circus.

Mrs Chap

I'll tell your mother and she'll come after you a flying.

Toby

Twont do no good, cause she won't find me . They won't let no women folks into the hottch kootchy dance (exit L U)

Con

I swan, have they got one of them with the circus, say I reckon I 'd better run along and see that he don't get into them dances. Aint no place for a boy----a young one.

Mrs Chap

Nor for an old boy either.

~~Mrs Chap~~ Pat

Oh just think how tired the poor girls must get dancing all day and all night. I should think their feet would drop off.

Con

Ha ha, it aint that kind of a dance.

Mrs Chap

Constable! Its an outrage to allow such vaggants in this town and that is what we are here for this afternoon, to see that this is the last circus allowed in this city.

Con

But I tell you can't keep 'em out as long as they pay their license and give a clean show.

Mrs Chap

Clean? Cou d any such display of the human form as you have seen on the billborads all about this town be clean and moral?

Rev

I have noticed some of them

Phil

That one across the way doesn't look bad.

Rev

Phil!

Mrs Chap

Phillip Grey! Have you no shame?

Con

He seems to have quite an eye for beauty

Mrs Chap

Beauty---remember that beauty is only skin deep

Con

Then some peoeple ought to be skinned (laugh)

Mrs Chap

Don't you ridicule me, Constable Clanton, I saw you gazing at those imoral posters and grinning like a Chehire cat.

Con

Its my duty as town constable too--

Mrs Chap

It isn't your duty to gaze upon indecent pictures. Its a wonder to me that the good Lord didn't strike you stone blind.

Con

I just kinda glanced at them with one eye

Mrs Chap

I never knew the time that you didn't have one on somthing and that someting is usually a woman

Con

Is that so? Well I don't even risk one eye when some females I could mention pass by

Mrs Chap

Indeed, if there is anything personal in that remark, I'll have you to know that I was just as good looking as any girl in this town when I was young.

Con

We're here to discuss business, why take up the subject of anicent discussion and history. Wild---thats the way I like 'em wild women

Pat
Constable, I'm shocked.

Con
No, n not the kind of wild women you mean. Didn't iever tell you of the time I helped capture the wild woman? You see it happend this way; there were three of us sailors---

Pat
Oh, were you a sialer?

Con
Was I a sailor? Now would you listen to that. Young lady I am the original sailor, the man t at kidded Capatin Kidd for years I sailed the briny deep. I reckon I know more about the (localaze) Ocean than the man that made it.

Pat
The (localize) Rifsr you mean, I expect.

Con
Then you expect wrong---I said the (local) Ocean

Pat
But there isn't such an ocean Constable.

Xon
Thats my story and I'm going to stick to it. And I was saying us three sailors were shipwrced and cast upon a cannibal island.

Phil
(kidding him) Cannibals what are cannibals?

Con
What are canniblas? Didn't you ever have any sheoolin a tall? For you know you might be a cannibal yourself, aks they parson what they are.

Rev
Cannibals are savages who live off of other human beings.

Con
There you see, you are a cannibal. YOU've been living off of your bother sver since I knew you. Well we were cast upon this cannibal island and one day while we were sneaking ar und hiding away from the cannibals we ran into a tribe of savage wild women, regular wild women, and the funniest part was they didn't have any tongues.

Mrs Chap
No tongues? Why/nd/ Why how could they talk?

Con
They couldn't talk. Thats what made them wild (laugh)

Mrs Chap
There, there, listen to him that is another one of his lies. No one ever heard of women without tongues. Parson I leave it to you to answer, did you ever hear of suhh a thing. Do you think that it would be possible for women to live if they didn't have tongues?

Rev
Mrs Chapman, I answer you in all honest. No I do not think a woman could live without a tongue (smiles)

Mrs Chap
There I knew it.

Pat
What time do they parade?

Mrs Chap
I don't know. I, for one, shall not witness it

Clanton
(wipes eye again)

Phillip
Whats wrong with your eye?

Con
Oh nothing---I got something in it this morning. I remmeber when I was bare ~~gack~~ rider with the Buell bill show---

Phil

They didn't have bareback riders with Buffalo Bill---they used a buffalo and steers.

Con

Well, I rode the steers around the ring

Phil

Now, constable, the others may believe that but it sounds like bull to me.

Con

Well it was the bull I rode.

Mrs C

Parson, we want you to sign this petition (takes paper from bag)

Rev

May I ask what it is?

Pat

Its a petition to keep cirasses from showing in our town

Xon

And you being the second most prominent man in town they want---

Mrs C

The second most prominent and who is the first?

Con

Well (cough) Naturally a constable carries many responsibilities on his shoulder, but I don't mind being a natural born leader.

Mrs C

a born prevaricator you mean, you were only elected to pension you off.

Con

I'll give you to understand that I'm the best constable in this town.

Phil

How many are there?

Con

There anint no more but if they was I'd be best.

- Mrs C

A fine specimen of an officeryou are/ Now parson about this petition

Con

Shucks a man can't get a word in edgeways when theres a woman around.

Rev

Mrs Chapman, what did you wish to say?

Mrs C

Well we want your signature----then we would like to have you present the petition to the city counsel.

Rev

Very well---you may leave it with me I will sign it.

Pat

And I want you to attend the quilting bee next Tuesday Will you come also Phillip.

Phil

What kind of a bee?

Con

A quilting bee---thats where they sew quilts up---not a regualr bee But they'll be a lot of queen bees there.

Phil

Then count me in.

Pat

Then you'll have to pick your own queen bee---every one must have an escort.

Phil

How about you?

Pat

Why I----I (look at Parson)

Mrs C

Pat has ask the ladies to attend. 'he ladies do the inviting at this affair.

Con

You aint up much on bees, Phill (laugh)

Phil

What do you know about bees, constable?

Con

Everything---every kind too. Why boy, once I drove a whole swarm of mad bees across the desert. in the dead of winter and never lost a single bee nor got stung (faint cheering heard off stage)

Rev

What is that?

Phil

One of those free acts I suppose

Con

(nervous) Guess I'll have to be going. The parade is starting.

Mrs C

You do not intend to witness that ungodly exhibition do you?

Con

Me! I should say not but I'm going to keep law and order on the street. I got my eye on them

Rev

Don't hurry away Constable.

Mrs

I shall go right along with you to see that you are not led into temptation.

Pat

Now Mother why should you care if Mr Clanton wants ~~to see~~ to see the circus?

Con

I don't want to see it--I wouldn't see it.

Rev

Ghe constable is right, his duty is on the street right now (UC)

Con

And I never shirk my duty. Did I ever tell you about the time back in 1874 when I captured Jessie James (Pat X to window near Phil)

Phil

Now look here, Constable Jessie James wasn't captured he was shot.

Con

(pause and look at him) Well I guess I gught to know that as well as anyone. I was the one that shot him (Rev shakes head and smiles)

Mrs C

Constable, you mean to say that you actually shot a man---of course it was in self defence.

Con

(Mrs C X him hear L U) Nope it was tween the crossing and the water tank. (exit L U)

Pat

(As Rev X L U with Mrs C) Phil, sneak me out somewhere so we can see the parade

Phil

All right, meet me at the post office

Mrs C

Come, Patience. Well I must be going (exit)

Pat

Coming Mother (exit L U with Parson and Mrs C)

Phil

Some bunch of hypocrites---I'll bet every one of them sneak into that show some way (band heard off in distacne to window looks out) The parade--this is my lucky day (slips out window exit R U)

REV

(enter L U), Oh Phillip (misses him) Gone to the circus (shakes head)
(X to window looks out band playing Rev quotes) "Be not decieved
by the material things, the brazen blast of trumpets, the crash
of cymbals Rather turn the eye, the ear inward and consider the
spiritual things which alone can endure (turn from window cross
from table R sit) I shall use that in my sermon tomorrow (takes
up writing material places it in front of him take s pen At this
point a big piece of canvass and rope represent a parachut falls in
heap in front of the window (Grey jumps up turns faces window)
Merciful heavens (runs to window opens it wide, steps out)
A balloon! (starts to turn over canvass)

Sylvia

(speaking off stage from up on ladder so voice will sound as if on
roof) Hello. I say Parson, you're lookin in the wrong direction---
I aint under it---I am up here.

Rev

(steps out far enough to look on roof shade eyes with hands)

Syl

I didn't get up I came down---sorta rianed down---say gotta ladder
and get me off will you? Sorry to trespass but I'm glad I didn't
spike myself on the steeple of your church.

Rev

Just a moment the e's a ladder on the other side---can you hold on?

Syl

Sure, I came down here on a tzapeze.

Rev

(exit R pause) (Comes right back with ladder places it against
side of house out side window)

Syl

All right parson hold her.

Rev

(braces bottom of ladder stands holding it---a short pause as if
Sylvia had several feet to descend---then her legs come in sight.
(Parson turns h s head)

Syl

(at foot of ladder) Much obliged.

Rev

It---it was nothing (stammers) Won't you ~~er~~--- (looks around
as though not wating to be seen) Come inside Miss---er---

Syl

Miss Brown. Sylvia Brown

Rev

(enters window Sylvia with him) I am the Reverend Edward Grey
Haven't you ar---any garments with you except those?

Syl

Nope---I didn't bring my trunk (stretches out yawn handsover head
(smiles) Never mind parson, they'll bring me a cloak when the wagon
comes along.

Rev

I ----er---beg your pardon.

Syl

Don't mention it---Mr Grey I reckon its sort Of a shock, me dropping
in on you out of a clear sky like this. I'll bet you aint accustomed
to entertaing ladies in any such get up as this, but yousee, they're
the things in which I do my work. I don't live in them.

Rev

Of course---of course---I thin you said they were sending you
something on the wagon.

Syl

Well, yes, but really the wagon is following me to take me back to the chute.

Rev

(looks out window--thinks) Excuse me, there is something I nearly overlooked.

Syl

Sure (Rev up at window tugs at canvas trying to lift it) Mr Gray, who are you doing? (rise to window)

Rev

I'm going to put this in a safe place. Get away from that window, please.

Syl

But if you leave it there, the men will see it. But if you move it--

Rev

I'll explain later (drags canvass off R) Excuse me.

Syl

Gee, he's afraid his good church members will see me here (laughs (X bake sit in chair & Rev enter window brushing hands X to L i exit Syl notice picture robe of ages over table R Reverend Enters with bathrobe over arm) Syl turns looks at him puzzled) What is it? (points to picture) How'd she get out there in her night gown? Must a been a storm.

Rev

(extends bathrobe) Be good enough to put this on.

Syl

(take s bathrobe puts it on) Struts a little as he turns away stops looks at him) Say, whats the matter with you?

Rev

Why----(stammers) Really my dear young woman.

Syl

I'm not your dear, so cut that part of the speech.

Rev

I beg your pardon---I mean no offence.

Syl

Thats what they all say----go on ---spill it.

Rev

I was just about to say that it might involve considerable explanation if you were----seen leaving----in er---such attire

Syl

Meanin' it might put a little crimp in your reputation.

Rev

As a matter of fact there are members of my congregation that would not understand.

Syl

The men----or a lot of old hens?

Rev

(smiles then checks himself) They are---er---possibly persons of both sexes.

Syl

Well my Lord do you mean to say that that bunch of goats wouldn't tumble to the fact that I fell on your roof and you was gentleman enough to get me down? And bring me inside instead of leaving me standing flat out in the street. (bathrobe falls open)

Rev

Why I meant---(notice it) If you'll be so kind as to gather that garment about you (Syl jerks robe together holds it) You see, the trouble is---that as ---as you---er said I have taken you in and er---kept you.

Syl

(
Syl
So you hid the chute and you figure on keeping me here until you
cna get me out without bein' seen---is that it?

Rev
I---I think so.

Syl
Well, I'llbe---

Rev
Don't be---pleasedon't be, you see Miss Brown, I'm a single man
and you are---a-er-er not an annattractive young---

Syl
(raises hand robe falls open again) Oh forget that part of it
can't you. I don'twnat you.

Rev
(opens drawer takes out safety pin hands it to her) Perhaps if
I were to give you a few pins----

Syl
And for heavens sakes for get my legs (jerks robe around her again)
If you don't I'll---I'll take off this thing and go sit on
your front porch (start)

Rev
I beg your pardon I---(turns toward window jumps to her quickly)
(tries to shove her toward door L I) Miss Brown go in there2-pleas
please--

Syl
(glances at window) Never mind, I gotcha (runs for door L trips
over robe) (FRev assit yer to rise) Who are the old hens?

Rev
Three members of my church I am at your mercy, Promise me
to remain quiet while they are present (opens door L I)

Syl
All right, only leave the door a little bit open, will you? This
ought to be good. Gee I never was wise before how hard
you fellows had to work to make a living.

Rev
(shoving her into room) Thank you- -thank you---oh what a situation
(sits R)

Mrs C
(enters L followed by others) Disgraceful exhibiti n--shameless
---brazen display of the form--s-something in your next sermon
parson we came back to speak to you about it. I seen her when I
turned away my eyes. Scarlet women they maby be and are for all
we know, but that is no reason why they should go around flaunting
their shamelessness before respectable people's eyes. The parade
was bad enough with a lot of painted people trying to flirt with
our men and boys but this one---perhaps Mr Grey you seen her
yourself.

Gon
Did you parson, did you see her come down?

Rev
No----I didnNOT see her come down.

Pat
I did it was- -

Mrs C
Hush, Patience, do not mention it.

Toby
Gosh, I seen her, I seen her I was just coming out tde of the tent

Gosh Parson, you ought to seen that girl dance why she---

Mrs C

Oh (hands over ears)

Con

Young man, you ought to be ashamed of yourself watching a daene like that and I'm going to---

Toby

You're going to give me another quart r to see the big show or I'm going to tell what I seen you doing

Con

No, sir, no sir, youcan't bribe me no more

Toby

Parson, you ought to seen him this morning when he was down by the big tent and he was up close to it and---

Con

Here, drat, you, now get out and stay out

Toby

Thanks, Gosh Constable, you're better than a bank and jest for that, you can come over and spark me (exit L)

Mrs

(as Con rubs eyes again) What is wrong with your eye?

Con

Oh, nothing, nothing (puts hankerchief away) Say when I seen her come down i t ene reminded me of the first time I ever went up in a baloon.

Mrs C

Constable, hush up, where did you ever ride in a balloon?

Con

Where did I ever ride in a balloon---I'll give you to understand that I was the first man that ever wnet up in a baloon. I went so highthat---

Rev

Now Constable, balloons were first used by a man named Montegolfes.

Con

I know it, I knew him better'n I know you

Rev

But Constable that was in France and was in---

Con

I know that also. I tell you I was there. I was the man that helped thought out the idea, says he to me---Clanton lets you nd me invent a baloon---says I to him all right Monte old boy. I'm with you and we went right towork and---

- Reverend

But Constable he invented his baloon in the year of 1783

Con

Well what of it---I remeber the year just as well as you do

Pat

Why Mr Clanton that would make you (use fingers to count laughs)

Oh---oh Constable how old were you then?

Con

How old was I? I---Let me see---I was just twenty oneand---

Pat

And that would make you just a hundred and sixty five years old now (all laugh at him)

/Rev/ Con

Oh shucks, I'm going---you make a liar out of a man every time he opens his mouth (quick exit L U*)

Rev

(laugh) Poor Clanton, he mean s all right

Mrs C

But Parson, about this girl---no one but a shameless huzzy would give such an exhibition.

Rev
But would not the ~~und~~ nature of the undertaining ---er---rather necessitate some sort of close fitting costume?

Mrs C
(horrificed) Parson! You aint approving of it, are you?

Rev
No---No---certainly not.

Mrs
Women haven't any need to undertake such things. Her place is on the ground and in the house.

~~Mrs~~ Rev
I shall protest the permitting of such exhibition in my sermon tomorrow.

Mrs
Well, I'm glad to hear you say that. Such things have a demoralizin effect upon the community.

Pat
But Mother, why lecture Edward---I mean Mr Greay--he is not to be blamed for the circus.

Mrs C
No I guess you are right, dearie, you are so thoughtful of him. You poor dear boy---but then I have so much faith in you that I turn to you in my hours of trouble

Pat
But Mother why take the troubles of the whole town upon your shoulder. If they want a circus let them have it---the parade was very nice and--

Mrs C
Patience Chapman! When you left me did you witness that horrible parade?

Pat
Yes Mother, I did.

Mrs C
You come home with me right now I shall make it a point to watch you the rest of the day---the very idea.

Pat
But Mother, they had the cutest little monkey and----

Mrs C
Never mind the monkeys---the towns full of them.

Pat
And such a funny clown--he threw me ~~me~~ a kiss at me.

Mrs C
(hands in air) Oh---our reputation is ruined---kissed by a clown
You come home with me this instant do you hear, this instant.
(drags her L U)

Pat
But mother he only blew the kisses at me

Mrs C
You're contaminated just the same and I'm going to rinse your mouth with soapsuds (drags her off L U Arch)

Rev
(sighs) Poor girl!

Syl
(throws door open) (enters speaks hotly) Do you believe it? Do you believe anything that darned old lady said? (Grey surprised)
What sort of a sissy are you to sit by and let her pan a girl that has to make her living and has done it on the level since she was a little kid?

Rev
Really, now Miss Brown you know my reputation is---

Syl

Oh, I don't wonder that you're scared to death of your lilly white reputation---if you think I'm anyth ng like that old hen said I was. But you take it from me and you can take it or leave it. I aint no scarlet woman nor huzzy nor nothing like it. Do you think I could go up and cut loose fro m a shut with a lot of Fluttering sk. skirts wrapped around my lefts, I aint ashamed of them. I reckon the Lord wasn't either or he wouldn't have given me any. Clothes don't make a person DECENT.

Rev

A true speech, little lady.

Syl

Theres many a long skirt and high neck covering more filth and indecency than you could scrub off if you used the Gulf of Mexico for a bath tub.

Rev

(taken back) Really, you surprise me.

Syl

And you don't have to live in a hick town or teach Sunday School to be dectn either. Hell is so full of Sunday School teachers right now that their feet are sticking out of the windows.

Rev

Upon my word, your wisdom is beyonðgme.

Syl

And really decent people don't have to go around advertising the fact that they are decent, keep your mouth shut, mind your own business, live atraight and people will find out that you're decant without shouting it out to them. Take it from me Parson the pwrson that's always telling you how decant they are and how rotten someone else is----that's the ones to watch.

Rev

I'm going to use every word you have said in my next sermon.

Syl

I'd rather wear no clothes at all and have a clear conscience than to be dressed in the cloak of a saint and have a nasty evil mind. (tears off robe and throws it on floor in front of minister)
I aint going to wear that any longer its too hot and it makes me feel like I ought to be ashamed of something when I aint got a thing to be ashamed of in my life.

Rev

But if it becomes known that you spent the afternoon in my house---

Syl

Mrs Bump, and her assitant knockers will knock you off your perch-- Well what have you got to suggestM I gotta get back to the lot sometime tonight

Rev

As soon as it becomes dark I will see that you reach your people safely myself.

Syl

And in the meantime I gotta stick around, keep away from the windows and suck my thumb? All rigght it aint your fault I fell on your roof (puts rovsion again) I'm game. (points to room 'L,1)
When you want me, call me, I'll be in there. (exit L 1)

Rev

(stands watching after her) And they would condemn her, I'll stake my honor that she is as pure and innocent of wrong as an unborn babe. (Syl makes change hereto Mazie) (Low murmer voice off R U distance gradually louder) (Phil enter window backing on watching O S) (Reverend places hands on shoulders) (Phil turns registers fear) Something has happened, what is it, Phil?

Phil
Its at the bank

Rev
The bank?

Phil
Someone robbed the bank.

Rev
But, why are you running away, you should be there, possibly you may help.

Phil
I was so excited I didn't know what I was doing.

Rev
Haden't you better go back?

Phil
No -----no!

Rev
Why, boy, what is it---you seem frightened- -why should you---

Slim
(runs through window Phil tries to keep him quiet) You got to help me----they're after us.

Rev
Help you----you---~~are~~ you----help you in what?

Phil
Ed don't believe him, he's lying.

Rev
Lying about what?

Slim
Say out that dope I haven't any time to lose (voice got louder)
I tell you they caught us making a get away and just as I slipped the swag to Mazie they seen her make away with it, she ducked them but you gotta hide her

Rev
Phil----Phil---brother what does this mean? Are you implicated in-- in this bank robbery?

Phil
No---no I tell you no, don't believe him.

Slim
Well you had better believe it and he better hide Mazie cause heres the only place she can ide, they'd never think of searching a minister's house.

Rev
You are asking me to harbor a criminal?

Slim
(looking out window) Don't argue, they're coming--if you don't do it, they'll get us and I'll tell all I know ---tell them that your brother, gave us the gombination to the safe---what do you think of that, parson?

Rev
(stunned) My brother gave---

Phil
(down in front of Grau) Ed, Ed, don't let them take me, I didn't mean to do it, I was tricked into it---I swear---save me, Ed, save me they'll take me to prison.

Rev
I cannot do it.

Slim
All right then we'll swing together.

Phil
Ed, Ed, remeber the promise you made Mother---that you'd watch over me---that---

Rev

Ref

(to Slim ignores Phil) Where is this party you must conceal?

Slim

(jumps to window quick motions) Come on in Mazie, I've fixed it (no hat on)

Mazie

(enter window) Slim!

Rev

you? But how did you get out there in those clothes (looks at her clothes)

Soim

Never mind, we'll get into details later---hide her and be quick about it

Con

(voices louder) Wait a minute boys, I'll go in

Rev

Phil---take her upstairs quick!

Phil

(trembling) Come on this way (catches her b arm runs Mazie O L by arm)

Slim

Well---what about me?

Rev

Follow them---hurry! (points L Slim exit*)

Con

(runs in window large gun in hand cane and Slim 's hat in other hand) Did he come this way, Parson, did he come this way?

Rev

Who?

Con

The thief that just robbed the bank (Mrs C and Patience appear in window) We chased them I almost caught him---look ~~at~~ I got his hat.

(voices keep up outside Enter Toby)

Mrs S

(down to Constable) Look in the hat, Constable, look in the hat.

Con

What for---he aint under it?

Pat

No, but maybe his name is in it (down on other side of him)

Con

By Cracker you're right (turns hat up looks at sweat band) Hurrah, hurrah, I've got him, I've got him!

Rev

(frightened) His name is there?

Con

It is (flourishes cane)

Toby

What is it?

Con

(Holds hat up poses) JOHN B STETSON!

(HOLD CURTAIN FOR COUNT OF FIVE THEN QUICK CURTAIN)

ACT TWO

SAME SETTING? TIME: JUST ABOUT DUSK SEVEN O'CLOCK

AT RISE REVEREND WALKING UP AND DOWN FLOOR STOPS TURNS ON TABLE LAMP

phil

(comes down stairs coat off) Rev back to him) Is everything quiet Ed?

Rev

(turns looks at him) I think so.

Phil

Can they go now?

Rev

(in beaten tone) Yes.

Phil

I'll tell them---it's dark enough, for them to get away (exit up stairs)

Rev

The brother I have raised an accomplice to thieves why did he do it? (music heard in distance as though circus grounds) And I have condemned them "Judge not lest ye be judged" My own brother is as guilty as they

Slim

(comes down stairs alone Mazie and Phil) The kid says the coast is clear, how about it Parson?

Rev

The people have quieted down, the impression seems to be that the thieft of thieves have caught a train out of town, all nearby stations have been warned.

Mazie

You're game for a sky pilot I gotta hand it to you, parson

Rev

And you, the woman I began to trust. The woman who but a few hours ago talked to me of decency.

Mazie

Who me?

~~Rev~~ Slim

You mean you met the kid before today?

Rev

I have met Miss Brown before---yes.

Slim

Miss Brown---that's her name all right

Phil

You talked to my brother before today.

Mazie

Not unless I've been walking in my sleep.

Rev

You deny having been here before?

Mazie

I certainly do.

Slim

He's been with me all day, parson, how could she have been here?

Rev

I see that I have been deceived it is useless to argue the point it is enough that I a minister of the gospel will stand by and see law breakers escape their just punishment.

Slim

How about your precious brother, he's in it deeper than we are he gave us the combination to the safe/ That's the only way we could have done the job.

Rev

So that was your end---you have robbed the man who trusted you, and now because blood is thicker than water you look to me to shield these criminals.

Slim

Go easy Parson---remember one word from me and your brother will go to the pen.

Rev

And I am not certain but what I shall let him go.

Phil

No---no Ed, don't do that---I'll work, I'll pay it all

all back . I'll get them to give their share back.

Slim

Yes, you will. (starts for window) Come on kid, lets blow before the sky pilot loses his nerve.

Mazie

You mean before he gets his nerve.

Rev

You will not right the wrong you have done when I have protected you?

Slim

Parson-- we figured on your protection---we had that all doped out.

Maz

Sure, we knew Phil was your bab ---that you wouldn't dare squeal on him ta ta parson, see you later. (takes card hands it to him)

There's my card, when you come to the city look me up and I'll show you a good time and ou'll find I'm no piker either

(Mazie throws parson a kiss both exit window)

Slim

(read in window) And don't get chicken hearted parson, remember I'm holding on to that combination in your brother's handwriting. (exit)

(Mazie changes back to Sylvia)

Rev

(faces Phillip) Why am I such a coward, I hope those people are caught before they get out of town, then I will be forced to let the law take its course as it should.

Phil

And then your job as a minister here would be blowed up.

Rev

Why? Because my brother has done wrng, I trust my congregation is broader minded than that.

Phil

Well, take it from me the jays in this town are son narrow that two felas couldn't pass on their mind without one falling off.

Rev

But they are not thieves.

Phil

Well, what are you going to do about it? (shows spiritaas if thinks safe)

Rev

What are you going to do about it?

Phil

Nothing.

Rev

You are going to return your share of the money at once.

Phil

I can't.

Re V

Why?

Phil

Because I got to use it to cover up my accounts.

Rev

Whats wrong with your accounts at the bank?

Phil

They're short.

Rev

What became of the money you have taken?

Phil

I've spent it.

Rev

On a woman?

Phil

Yes, on a woman.

Rev

Who?

Phil

You wouldn't believe me if I told you, you think she's asaint so does her mother, but she isn't she got me into this.

Rev

How

Phil

Oh every way, she goes to the city every Friday afternoon--thats my day off---I go too---we l, that takes money

Rev

And her name is --

Phil

Well if you must know, I'll tell you, but it s going to knock you a twister because you're stuck on her and to satisfy her mother she lets her think she's crazy about you, but she isn't its me she's crazy about---no not me---but the dough (door bell*)

Rev

Wait (calls loud) Come in.

Con

(enter L U) Good evening parson,

Phil

Hello Clanton have you located the thieffM

Con

No- -not exeatly but I've got my eye on him and the woman too, I seen the woman, I know wha t she looks like and this John B Stetson feller when I see him---

Rev

Constable John B Stetson is a rich manufacturer he did not wear the hat you found, he made it.

Con

Don't I know it? /Why John B hired me once a long time ago to work for him he'd been making hats for several years and his factory burne ed down andhe lost the records of how many hars he had sold so he hired nmetto start out and look in the hat of very man in the U S to see if it had his name in it, and keep track of all of them and wh when I got through I'd counted over sevey million hats and---

Phil

There isn't seventy million men in the U S

Con

Well most of them had two hats.

Phil

Stetson hasn't made half of seventy million hats in his life time.

Con

No, but he had orders in the factory for that many

Phil

Yes, but you said all the records were burned.

Con

Say, young feller are you trying to make me out a liar.

Phil

you're the biggest liar in town.

Rev

Phil!

Con

Let him go parson, let him go, he can't fool me I've got my eye on him, he's been doing too much chasing down to the city to suit me. It don't look well for bank clerks to spend too m uch time in the city chasing aournd with fast women.

Phil

(frightened) What are you talking about?

Con

You heard me and thats just what I came here tonight to talk about the directors of the bank have got tog ther and have calculated the loss this afternoon (looking at Phil) And they've wired for an expert accountant to come up from the city tomorrow and go over the books to see just how they are situated to stand the loss.

Phil

Expert account---coming tomoorw---what time? (frightened)

cCon

What you actin' scared about, Phil, they aint nothing wrong with your book, be they?

Phil

No, no of course not, but I---I---

Con

It looks kinda fishy to blame it on circus people---how could they have the combination the bank's safe?

Rev

It might have been given to them?

Con

The directors told me th watch the bank tonight to see that nobody got in to go ver the books and change anything and---

Phil

But I've got to go over my acccounts before the inspectors arrive and see that they are O K.

Con

I thought as how you might want to (start for door L turns) Well, what do you think of Constable Clanton the biggest liar in town now? (laughs) I do lie once in awhile-- what I just told you was a lie, the directors aint done nothing, they don't suspect nothing, they didn't tell me to watch the bank, and I aint never seen you in the city, thats all a lie!

Phil

(relieved) You mean---

Con

I mean I got my eye on you---thats all---good night (exit L U)

Rev

Do you know what you have done? You have deliberately walked into a trap set ---he suspects you and you have confirmed his suspicions to go to that bank to night and attempt to cover up any shortage of your books may show will mean your arrest.

Phil

Ed----what am I to do? You must save me some way.

Rev

Go upstairs, don't leave your room I will call you later, when I have had time to think it over (Phil exit (Rev walks floor then back is turned to door L opens and)

Syl

(enters dressed same as before rubbing eyes) How long have I been sleeping

Rev

(turns quickly registers astonishment) You!?

Syl

Yep, its me

Rev

How did you get into that room?

Syl

You put me in there.

Rev

But you---you left you came in again trthrough there. (

(points to window) dressed in (as she was dressed) and you left again, after having invited me to spend my vacation with you.

Syl

(puzzled scratches head) Me? I left---I went out the window---and I didn't have this on (takes hold of robe)

Rev

You did.

Syl

Being a parson, I can't say that you are drunk. You aint been asleep and dreamed that have you?

Rev

I wish it had been a dream that I had not seen you enter and leave there.

Syl

You mean that you want me to stay? Now don't forget that you are a minister.

Rev

You deny having been here with my brother and another party, that you did not enter and leave by that window.

Syl

I've been asleep since about five minutes after you sent me in that room

Rev

(looks at her pause) I'll swear---

Syl

Don't you do it, remember I told you to remember that you were a parson.

Rev

(door bell off L U) Quick! (rushes her back to door L push her in close door X to L U) Come in.

Toby

(enter L U) Howdy parson

Rev

Good evening Toby.

Toby

Parson, ma sent me over to ask you if you didn't want your supper earlier tonight, thought maybe you might want to come over and eat with us ---she wants to go out early tonight.

Rev

Thank, you Toby, tell her that I am not hungry and she needn't bother at all tonight. I ---I'm not feeling well

Toby

Its the circus ma wants to go to but she'd skin me alive if I told you.

Rev

Oh yes, I won't mention it.

Tob

Say, do you know they are looking all over for that balloon girl and can't find her no place.

Rev

Is that so?

Toby

Yep, and parson I was just out in your wood shed and I saw the parachute there that she used-----

Rev

And you---what?

Toby

Thought you might want to give me a quarter to see the night show---how about it?

Rev
I guess I could (gives him money) Toby.

Tboy
(exit L U) Now I can see the show.

Syl
(opens door peeps out) What was it this time?

Rev
My housekeepershe was coming to get my supper and I had to explain to her that I didn't care for anything tonight. (comes out of room) I told him that I wasn't feeling very well tonight, may I inquire Miss Brown, have you ever attended a divine sermon?

Syl
Only once.

Rev
I'm sorry to hear that, Miss Brown, I want to help you I want to lead you out of the valley of darkness inot the green pastures of light.

Syo
I never take any walks with any strange men.

Rev
Do you know that I feel that I should take a help mate in my labours in due time?

Syl
And do you know that I've been thinking the same thing? But when I marry I'm going to marry a man/

Rev
Aman?

Syl
Yes, one who wouldn't be ashamed to be seen anywhere with me anytime.

Rev
Really that remark is cruel.

Syl
Is it? Well all the time you've been thinking about your reputation what about me? I don't guess you've been giving any thought to how I'm going to explain to my fellow after I've sneaked back to the lot tonight, do you?

Rev
Your fellow?

Syl
Sure---the man I'm going to marry---you aint been botherin ' about what he's g ing to think-- you've only been beefin' about yourself.

Rev
You are going to be married?

Syl
I am.

Rev
May I ask the gentelman's name?

Syl
You may---its Harrison---Slim Harrison

Rev
What?

Syl
Well, what have you got to say about it?

Rev
You can t you---my dear, you must not -- thats the man who robbed the bank today---the man who caused my brother to do wrong---the man who came here with the woman I said looked like you.

Syl
Parson I, --Slim robbed the bank---there was a girl with him who looked like me, you say, quick tell me I must know.

Rev

There was----and the name was Brown the same as yours.

Syl

Oh! (sobs)

Rev

You know her?

Sul

Know her! Parson, she's my---my sister.

Rev

Your sister!

Syl

Yes my---my twin sister!

Phil

(enter L U) Hello,---what have we here,---Mazie! What are you doing here in that get up?

Syl

Mazie? You know my sister, who are you?

Rev

This is my brother Phillip. Phil, I told you to remain upstairs.

Phil

Yes, and I don't wonder that you did.

Rev

What do you mean by that remark?

Phil

What do I mean---well thats good (X to R,C) MY psalm singing brother (laughs) Why you're no better than I am, even though you are a minister.

Syl

What are you hinting at M

Phil

Now, Mazie, don't coin none of that stuff on me. I fell for it long enough, so all the time you were letting me call when I dropped in the city you were slipping out here and meeting my brother as well eh? Thats good.

Rev

This young ladie's name is not Mazie---her name is Sylvia.

Phil

Yes, and probably she's got a dozen other names---one for every man she fool~~ed~~ around with.

Rev

(catches Phil by throat retract those words or brother that you are I'll choke the worthless life out of you. (Clanton bell off Stage L U) (Rev still holding Phil) quick sylvia in my room (she exit) (Rev throws Phil R) Come in.

Con

(enter L U followed by Mrs C and Patience) Thats a good one, you know that reminds me of the time---

Mrs C

Oh, dry up.

Con

I didn't know I was wet.

Mrs C

What will people say, oh my poor little lamb, my dear little duckie

Con

If she's a cross between a lamb and a duck I don't blame the parson for not wanting to marry her.

Mrs C

Why I even had the material picked out for her wedding dress and now---

Con

Now you can unpick it again.

Syl

Of course you know me and I know you, you were the old fossil that was looking through the hole in the canvas of my dressing room this mornin and I poked my finger in your eye.

Pat

So thats what made your eye sore.

Con

I don't care nothing about that, you're the girl that robbed the bank, and I'm going to take you to jail (starts for her Reverend catches him throws him R)

Rev

This girl is in my home under my protection. You have no right unless you have a search warrant, and until you can show me you and no other man can lay hands on her

Mrs C

You the minister of the gospel would defy the law in protection of a thief.

Rev

She is no thief.

Mrs C

Then what have you got her hid in your house for?

Rev

I'll answer that question at the proper time and to anyone who can show me the proper authority for asking it.

Syl

Let me tell them parson

Rev

Tell them nothing. Who are they to condemn either you or I?

Mrs C

I am a respectable church going woman I'll have you to understand

Pat

So am I

Phil

We're all respectable here except you two, (points to R X Slim enter window stand there looks on unseen by others)

Rev

Respectable, which one? (looks at all of them) You (to Con) You are the biggest liar that ever breathed a breath of life, you would rather tell a lie any day than tell the truth. And you (to Pat) What are you? My brother has just confessed that you are the woman for whom he has become a thief. You sneak away from your mother's side every Friday afternoon. You ride to the city where you are met by my brother, and between the two of you you have squandered away enough of the local bank funds so that he in order to cover the shortage has become a thief and robbed the men who have trusted him and as for you (to Mrs C) I've heard considerable gossip about you

Mrs C

You can't slander me.

Slim

(drops down in picture) Maybe she can't but I can---how are you Sally--- I'm pleased to meet you again.

Mrs C

Oh-----You!

Slim

Yes me, aint you glad to see me?

Rev

You know this woman?

Slim

Know her? I ought to know her she used to be my side partner years ago if swindling the hotels she used to rope in the fellows so I---

so I-----

S

Mrs C

Slim, Don't----Don't!

Slim

Won't I though. I owe it to you, Sally. She got tired of me took my bankroll and flew the coop. That's the kind of a woman she is and now she's trying to hand it to the cleanest little lady that ever walked a circus lot.

Pat

Mother, this can't be true, deny it!

Slim

It don't do any good to deny it. Cause I still hold a marriage certificate with her picture on it.

Rev

And you call yourselves respectable? People who live in glass house should never throw stones. Out of my house all of you, spread your gossip, set your scandal mongrelling tongues wagging (waves them all L U all start to get to door Slim R Rev Cwith Syl) And take this message from me. To all who are willing to listen. "Let him among you who is without sin cast the first stone."

CURTAIN

ACT THREE

NOTE SAME SETTING ABOUT HALF AN HOUR LATER

Pat

Phil, you know that I have never tried to hurt you, that is my reason for coming back here tonight to talk to you

Phil

Little good talk will do now. I tell you its going to take more than talk to clear me in this scrape. What a chump I've been?

Pat

But, Phil, why did you accuse your brother, the one person in the world who would fight for you until the last hope had vanished. Why did you try to ruin him, to make him bear the blame of the wrong?

Phil

Self preservati n is the first law of nature.

Pat

How about brotherly love, Phil?

Phil

Oh, brotherly rot! Did you expect me to say nothing and let old Clanton drag me off to spend the night in that filthy jail of his?

Pat

Still you would have allowed him to drag your brother there

Phil

No he wouldn't I knew he would trust Ed even if he had placed him under arrest, he wouldn't have taken him there.

Pat

You must have thought fast to have thought out all that.

Phil

Listen here, if you have sneaked away from your mother's skirts to deliver me a sermon, you had better leave. One minister in my family is quite enough.

Pat

Don't you think you need a little sermon as you call it?

Phil

Not from you.

Pat

Phil, I have always liked you more than I should possibly. Mother has been at me constantly to win your brother, but you know I have never cared for him in that way.

Phil

Nor for me either.

Pat

That isn't so Phil, and you know it.

Phil

All you cared about was the good times, I know your kind.

Pat

You are wrong Phil, do you suppose that had I known when you were obtaining your money that way that I would have allowed you to do it?

Phil

You took precious good care never to ask where it was coming from

Pat

Because I never expected you being a thief. What I am now I have done for you and if I do go down, I'm ~~going~~ not going down alone, and you professed love for me. No Phil, you are excited, frightened. You couldn't do such a terrible thing.

Phil

Couldn't I? Who's going to stop me?

Slim

I am. (comes down both turn) You, you miserable little whelp, why we've got a midget in the side show that's only eighteen inches high, but when it comes to being a man he's so big along side of you that you could walk between his legs without stopping.

Phil

Now look here, Slim

Slim

I'm looking at you right now, and it's making me sick. Why I ought a (raise hand)

Pat

Please, please do not quarrel in here.

Slim

Excuse me, Miss (to Phil) Get out of my sight before I do what I ought to and twist that dirty little head off your shoulders.

Phil

Do you think I'll allow you to talk to me like that you crook?

Soim

Crook? Yes, I guess I am, but even a crook has some decency and respect for a female but dern your filthy little hide y u aint even got to associate with clean crooks. Now you get back up there in that room where you hid me a little while ago and you stay there for if I set eyes on you again before I leave this berg I'll "Hey Rube" You----now get!

Pat

(Phil exit R) I thank you Mr Slim

Slim

(smile) Mr Slim? Well now even a nick name can sound pretty good when some people say it.

Pat

But I didn't know you by any other name.

Slim

No you don't do you. If you had, maybe I wouldn't have been called Slim today. Oh well that's all right, little ne don't you worry any more about him causig you any trouble.

Pat

But he may make trouble for you and I'm sorry.

Slim

Sorry? Don't be sorry for me I don't deserve it. But here it won't do for any one to see you her talking to me or them scandal mongers you was talking about will talk.

Pat

I do not fear them.

Slim

Possibly not, but old Slim knows best and as I have got special business here I reckon you had better be going.

Pat

I will.

Slim

Just a minute, Patience, when I get out of this tonight, I am going to quit the game and go straight and I aint going far from here either. Just over to the city, but bevore I go there's something mighty special I wantto say to you.

Pat

Tell me now, please.

Slim

No not, now I haven't got the time, but tonight down by the lot if you trust me and can get away.

Pat

I do trust you and I will come for what you have said to mother there afe things I must talk to you about

Slim

Then you understand?

Pat

Yes I think I do. (starts comes back kisses him exit)

Slim

Gosh---she kissed me. Well what do you know about that? (hand on cheek) I won't wash that spot for a month.

Syl

(enter L) Slim!

Slim

Sylvia!

Syl

(notice hand on cheek) Got a toothache, Slim?

Slim

Nope, something I neverhad happen before a heart ache.

Syl

A heart ache? (laughs)

Slim

Does sound funny, doesn't it?

Syl

What makes your heart ache, Slim?

Slim

Oh I reckon because I am toing to lose my little girl.

Syl

Why Slim, you're not going to lose me.

Slim

No?

Syl

Of course not.

Slim

Sure about that.

Syl

Why should you?

Slim

How about the sky pilot.

Syl

Oh Slim, you're talking nonsense.

Slim

Maybe---Maybe.

Syl

I could hug you for what you have done for me.

Slim

Dats all right kid, old Slim has always been strong for you and you know it. I reckoned I 'd find you so I brought you along

br

a bundle of your glad rags.

Syl

Where are they?

Slim

Outside the window here in a bundle---you can doll up for him now and let him see what a real little queen you are.

Syl

One thing, Slim, if he does like me, he knows what he's getting (laugh)

Slim

I'll get the clothes then, you go somewhere and put them on I'll look up Mazie and tell her what's up---I got her hid---she may be a crook, Sylvia but she's strong for her sis, and there aint nobody going to blame anything on you that she did, Mazie won't stand for that. (exit Window)

Syl

Poor old Slim! In spite of his ways, he loves me. I wish he would go straight.

Slim

(enter with bundle of clothes) Now what it and get into them---

I brought everything---even to the straight jacket.

Syl

Thanks, Slim (takes bundle exit L)

Slim

I reckon its better for her, she don't belong among our kind anyhow.

Rev

(comes D stairs enter L U Slim starts for window) Wait a minute

I want to talk to you

Slim

Well? (turns comes to him C)

Rev

I have just written out my resignation as pastor of this church. I shall leave this town at once.

Slim

What's that to me?

Rev

Where is Miss Brown---I mean the girl, Sylvia---not the other one.

Slim

In there (points L)

Rev

She has informed me that she is engaged to you

Slim

Well, what of it?

Rev

He's too good for you

Slim

Thanks.

Rev

Its the truth, you are a criminal---a law breaker---to allow you to sink her unsullied name with yours would be the worst crime of your life.

Slim

I reckon you better ask her about that

Rev

Does she know what you are?

Slim

Well, not exactly, she doesn't know everything I've done.

Rev

Then you must inform her.

Slim

Suppose---I don't- --what then?

Rev
Then, I shall.

Slim
If you do I'll bust your head in

Rev
I used to be a pretty good scrapper myself when I was a boy

Slim
Say whats the big idea, oare you stuck on her yourself?

Rev
What business is that of yours?

Slim
Well right here is where I make it my business ---put her there (shake) Parson, you're all right, I was just testing you out---why I've been a daddy to Sylvia for about ten years, but right now is time for me to quit the job, go ahead, ask her and take it from me, she'll grab you up quick.

Rev
You mean you are not engaged to marry her?

Slim
Thats just what I mean, but don't tell her I told you

Rev
Are you willing to give her up?

Slim
To a regular he---guy like you, yes, I knew some real man would meat her some day and fall for her---but I didn't think she'd fall for a parson

Rev
You're not all bad, are you

Slim
Well I don t know about that, Parson, but I rekcon there's a little good in the worst of us---I'm going now and fix up hiss bank thing Leave it to me and everything will come out O K(to window) I'm sending Mazie around to talk to that brother of yours, I Have him here. He'll be right in (exit window)

Rev
(follow him to window, Clanton sneaks along from behind bwindow L looking after Slim) Good evening, Constable.

Con
(jumps frightened whispers) Thats him, parson, I'm on his trail.

Rev
Spying a little, eh

Con
Nope, just got my eyes on him thats all.

Rev
Why don't you arrest him?

Con
Mrs Chapman don't seem to want me to, fanny thing him being her husband, wasn't it?

Rev
Very.

Con
(sits C Rev remains U S behind him) You know the first time I ever looked at her, I says to myself, says I, theres a woman with a past Of course I knew long ago that he was her husband but I didn't say nothing.

Rev
That was generous of you. (X R U)

Con
Oh I kin afford to be generous, now you, take this case its the biggest t ing this town ever had, but shucks it aint nothin compared to the case I had when I was police inspector in New York. I had some real case s there. I

I remember one case in particular it was when the black handers kidnapped (Rev exit R U) The daughter of J P Morgan and he syas to me Clan old boy, I want you to---(sees that he is alone) Oh heck it was going to be the best one I ever thought of (rise) Well I'll try it out on Mrs Chapman first (up to window) Then I'll enlarge on it and tell him

Toby

(enter L) Howdy, Constable, looking for someone?

Con

Oh there you are, what did you mean by telling about me peepin in that tent? I've a notin to whale the daylight out of you

Toby

If you do, You'll never be my pa---I'll tell ma not to marry you

Con

You oughta have more respec for your future father

Toby

You oughta have more respect for ma than to go peekin at hootch cootchys. But I forgive you, Constable. Say you ought to seen them dancers, one of 'em winked at me and called me sweet daddy and then she (whispers in Con's ear)

Con

No--do tell (laugh) Say (lookaround) Suppose we just kinder stroll down by the circus lot and (whispers to Toby)

Toby

(laugh) (takes his arm) Come on, I'll go.

Con

You won't tell your ma on me?

Toby

Not a word. (both exit out window)

***** FIFTH NUMBER *****

REV

(ENTER L U WITH PHIL POINT TO CHAIR C) Sit down there (Phil sits) I am going to leave you here alone for a few minutes, ou will write a confession to your share in robbing the town bank

Phil

I won't-- they havn't caught the others---they haven't anything on me.

Rev

I have, and they knew what you forced me to tell---fif when I returnr you have not done as I have asked you, I shall call in Mr Burton the president and have you placed under arrest (X L U) That is final---think it over.

Phil

And if I do as you say?

Rev

Then I will do all in my power to square the wrong you have done I think I have enough to cover your shortage (exit upstairs)

Phil

(goes to desk takes up pen)MI can't---I can't put it down on paper

Mazie

(enter window) Hello, Phil.

Phil

Mazie!

Maz

Yes, Mazie.

Phil

You've got to get me out of this, you got me into it.

~~Phil~~/ Maz

And you tried to accuse my sister---there's only one way I will help you and that is that you undo the wrong that you have done her.

Phil
Your sister?

Maz
Yes, my sister, the girl you accused in this room a short time ago was my twin sister---the baloon girl

Phil
Twin sistersM

Maz
Exactly and there's no time to waste they may find me any minute Slim has turned over to me our share of the spoils--do you know what I'm going to do with it?

Phil
What?

Maz
I'm going to walk striahrt down the street to the house of the president of the bank and turn it over to him with my confession that it was I not my sister that did it.

Phil
Thats suicide---they will put you in jail

Maz
Thats better than havin g them put my sister ther., isn't it?

Phil
Why so? + tell you, lets you and I take the money get away and---

Maz
(draws revolver) Get your hat, you rat

Phil
Look out don't do that, that thing might go off.

Maz
Get your hat (Phil gets hat) Now put it on (he does) Now you walk out to this shed with me and be quike about it---you're going to g8t your share of the money and go with me.

Phil
To Mr Burton's house?

Maz
To Mr Burton's house---I reckon he'll be satisified to get his money back when I explain to him

Phil
But if he isn't?

Maz
Then Phil dear, you and I will go away as you wanted to a moment ago---on a nice long trip.

Phil
To jail M

Maz
Yes---they treat people nice ther---I've been there, I know now walk (Phil trembling walks to window exit with Maz)

(Mazie changes back to Sylvia here--dress inpretty ingenue dress)

Rev
(comes down stairs from L U looks around) Gone!

Slim
(head in window) Its all right, parson, I've fixed it.

Rev
Fixed it?

Slim
Mazie, and your borhter are on their way to the banker's to give back the dough and confess.

Rev
Come, I'm slim I want to talk to you

Slim
You won't preach me a sermon will you?

Rev

No, come in (Slim enters) Have a chair (Slim sits & door bell)
Just a minute please (to door L U calls) Come in.

Con

(enter L U) How dye parson

Rev

Clanton!

Con

Yep its me, now don't fly off the handle till I tell you what I'm here for.

Rev

Allow me to introduce you constable--this is Mr John B Stetson

Con

What! Oh yes I found your hat.

Alim

Glad to know you

Con

What I come to tell you about Parson is that Mrs Chapman sent me on ahead to say that after thinking it over that maybe I hadn't better arrest Mr John B Stetson that if necessar she would see that the bank didn't suffer much ---she's kinder rich herself you know. (winks) Get me.

Slim

Sure, I get you

Con

And about this girl that robbed the bank----

Rev

She is now at Mr Burton's making a confession

Con

Do tell? Well its a good thing for her, I've got my eye on her, she couldn't get away

Slim

Then why didn't you catch her.

Con

I never hurry on the job, no good detectives do, and I guess I'm as good as they make them

Rev

Possibly you would like to meet the other girl, the twin sister to the one you are speaking of.

Con

What? They be two of 'em?

Rev

(X rap on door L) Are you dressed?

Syl

You can't come in, I'll be out in a minute.

Con

Which one is that?

Rev

The one you were trying to peep at this morning.

Con

Ahem. About that peeking---I was just looking to see if everything was all right around the tents a man can't be too careful ---and if she won't mention that to anyone I'll see that she isn't molested any more in this town.

Slim

She doesn't need your protection.

Rev

~~Suppose you~~ Suppose you promise me that if she doesn't mention that, that you will swear off lying, Constable.

Slim

Say I'll bet you that new Stetson hat of mine that you found that

you co ldn't keep from lying for anything.

Con

'I'll take that bet---that goes, I never told a lie in all my life.

Slim

You win---keep the hat.

Con

What do you mean by that---I win?

Slim

Thats biggest lie you ever told.

***** NUMBER *****

REV

(door bell) Come in

Mrs C

(enter withn Pat)

Rev

Come in Mrs C

Mrs C

I've just come to say that I am sorry for what occured here this evenin and I have talked to several ladeis of the church parson and they all want you to reconside r and remain with us

Pat

Do Mr Grey---please do

Slim

Say do you really mean that, Sally that you are sorry for what's happened here, and you mean to do square by the sky pilotg

Mrs C

I do.

Slim

Then I reckon everything is all right. (takes out an old worn paper and hands it to Mrs C) I don't blame you none for getting away from the likes of me (to Pat) Theres something you can burn nad I reckon nobody else here will bother to talk too much about what has been said here tonight.

Mrs C

Thanks.

Slim

I'm leaving town tonight with the circus, but Be fore I go I w would kinder like to see Patience a few minutes, if you don't mind theres seething I want to tell you som thing that no one else probably has ever told you but I reckon you got the r ght know. Aint she Sally?

Mrs C

I suppose so Slim

Slim

In half an hour be down to the lot. Will you be there

Pat

Yes, I will.

Slim

Then suppose we all clear out for awahile and let the parson have a clear field. I reckons he's got something mighty important to say to someone else.

Toby

(enters window mussed up with black eye)

Mrs C

Toby Green, what is wrong with you?

~~Today~~ Toby

Nothing now, its all over, constable, I want you to arrest a fellow down at the circus.

Con

Con

What did you do? (takes Toby's arm and leads him to door L U' Ready train bell) All right I never was the one to stand Tobyn by the way come on Mrs Chapman young folks like to be alone to do their courting, you know that reminds me of the time I was right hand man to Teddy Roosevelt and he was a courting my sister and I said---

Pat

Why you never had a sister, Constable.

Con

Oh you're bound to make a man out a liar, whats the use? (exit L U with Pat and Mrs C)

Tbby

(at door) Parson, if she calls you sweet daddy ~~and~~ watch your step and think of me---darn the women, you can't trust any of them (exit L U)

Syl

(enter from R L I dress as pretty here as possible) Have they gone?

Rev

Sylvia.

Slim

Aint she a humdinger, parson?

Syl

(trian bell stops listens) Thats the first section Slim, and they are ready to pull out

Slim

Reckon'they'll be getting another baloon girl tomorrow.

Sy

Why so, am I fired?

Slim

Nope, you are engaged.

Syl

Engaged (laugh) h yes to you.

Slim

Nope, not to me---to him (points to Parson2)

Syl

To him, how so?

Slim

I fixed it up for you

Syl

Fixed it up for me?

Slim

Why yes, didn't you want to marry him?

Syl

Marry him?

Slim

Sure you told me you did.

Syl

Goo d night, I never did such a thing.

Slim

All right, I can unfix it again (turns to Rev) Its all off again Parson, she says she don't want you

Syl

I did not, I never said any such a thing.

Rev

Sylvia, could you---would you accept me, eve n thought I am not a man?

Syl

Who said you wasn't a man?

Rev
And you will have me?

Syl
Gee, you aint asked me yet.

Rev
But I am asking you now.

Syl
Will you always want me?

Rev
Always. (reading bible) But will you be content to give up the circus and remain with me and say as Ruth said --

Syl
Entreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee for whithersoever thou goest, I will go and where thou lodgest I will lodge, they people shall be my people and they God my God----

Rev
Where thou diest will I die, and there will I be buried, the Lord do so to me, and more also if ought but death part thee and me.

CURTAIN
